

## The Silver Jubilee of H. E. H. The Nizam.

WITH a fortnight of rejoicing Hyderabad is celebrating the Silver Jubilee of the reign of her ruler, His Exalted Highness Sir Osman Ali Khan Bahadur.

The changes that have come over the State of Hyderabad since the present ruler assumed the reins of government are at once important and far-reaching. Ethnically and otherwise the Dominion of the Nizam was a singular composite of elements varying greatly and differing in certain respects from other native states, when His Exalted Highness ascended the throne. The Nizam, who recognized early enough the advantages accruing to his state from direct personal administration, effected radical changes in the then-existing form of government. The discriminating judgment exercised by the Nizam in the choice of statesmen like the Right Hon'ble Sir Akbar Hydari to fill positions of trust and responsibility, has been an invaluable asset to the State, and Hyderabad to-day holds the proud and unique record, that the great depression, which affected nearly every country in the world, was powerless, against the superior devices of her statesmen, to check the tide of her swelling revenues.

Foremost among his peers of the Princely Order in India, both as a sagacious administrator and as an experienced statesman, the interests of his subjects have ever been nearest the Nizam's heart. During the past quarter of a century of his rule the most notable improvements in the State have

always had a direct bearing on the economic and social amelioration of his subjects. The Nizam who is well known for his ascetic simplicity, severely whittled down all expenditure connected with the pageantry of the Jubilee, and has recommended, that the funds should be used for schemes of rural uplift and provision of health clinics. The foundation of the Osmania University, on the lines of the most advanced educational centres of the West, is but one instance of the zeal of His Exalted Highness to further the cause of higher education in the State. The interests of the ryots have not been neglected in this multi-phased progress. Numerous irrigation projects are being undertaken and the translation into action of the faith that can move a mountain has culminated in the impounding of river water at Hussiensagar. Amidst this rapid advance in the material welfare of the people of Hyderabad, the Nizam has not lost sight of their spiritual betterment and the religious rituals form the most important part of the Jubilee festivities.

It can scarcely be otherwise than appropriate to recall here the solemn pledge given by the Nizam on the eve of his accession—“It is my highest ambition to be in all respects, both to the Government of India and to my own people what my late father was ; a friend on the one hand and a beneficent ruler on the other.” To what extent he has redeemed this pledge the present State of Hyderabad bears eloquent testimony.